

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY MISSOURI  
AT LIBERTY

STATE OF MISSOURI ex rel.	)	
Attorney General Eric Schmitt,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	Cause No.
v.	)	
	)	Div.
Ella's Asian Massage	)	
SERVE AT:	)	
8701 Holmes St.	)	
Kansas City, MO 64115;	)	
	)	
Yuanuin Bao	)	
SERVE AT:	)	
8701 N. Holmes St.	)	
Kansas City, Missouri 64115;	)	
	)	
Dinh Tung	)	
SERVE AT:	)	
407 NE 55 <sup>th</sup> St.	)	
Kanasas City, MO 64118.	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**PETITION FOR INJUNCTION**  
**OF A PUBLIC NUISANCE**

Plaintiff State of Missouri, at the relation of Attorney General Eric S. Schmitt, brings this Petition for Preliminary Injunctions of a Public Nuisance, and upon information and belief, states as follows:

1. Illicit Massage Businesses (IMB) provide illegal sexual services to customers under the guise that they are a legitimate massage therapy business providing only legal and licensed massage therapy.

2. IMBs often serve as a front for human trafficking, illegal sex work, and forced labor.<sup>1</sup>

3. The Polaris Project estimates that there are approximately 9,000 IMBs operating in the United States. Missouri is no exception. *See Exhibit 1.*

4. There are several indicators that a massage parlor is engaging in commercial sex and potential human trafficking. These include: prices significantly below market; customer reports of female masseuses who request large tips and who express disappointment if they do not receive a tip;; windows covered in a way that prevents passerbys from seeing inside the business; open late hours (i.e., until 9 p.m. or later); and advertising or customer reviews on commercial sex websites like RubMaps.ch, BackPage.com, and other illicit websites. *Id.* at 9.

5. Advertisements for IMBs may include a description of the masseuses' appearance or age, emphasizing their physical characteristics and young age. The advertisements typically include sexually-suggestive photos of Asian women that emphasize the women's appearance, not their massage therapy skills. *See id.*

6. In order to facilitate these illicit services, IMBs utilize websites that are solely used for the purposes of soliciting illicit behavior to advertise.

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<sup>1</sup> See Nicholas Kulish, et al., "Behind Illicit Massage Parlors Lie Vast Crime Network and Modern Indentured Servitude," NEW YORK TIMES, March 3, 2019, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/02/us/massage-parlors-human-trafficking.html>.

*See Order, State of Missouri v. Golden Massage, et al.*, Case No. 1731-CC00950 (Greene County, Missouri, Aug. 20, 2020) (“The only purpose for which a massage business would advertise on BackPage.com CitXGuide.com, or Rubmaps.com [RubMaps.ch] is to attempt to promote prostitution service[s.]”).

7. Indeed, BackPage.com was seized by federal law enforcement in 2018 because it was the largest online marketplace for illegal sex trafficking.<sup>2</sup>

8. CityXGuide.com was created one day after the FBI’s seizure of BackPage.com in order to fill the space created by the shutdown.<sup>3</sup>

9. In 2020, CityXGuide.com was also seized by federal law enforcement because it was “a leading source of online advertisements for prostitution and sex trafficking that users described as ‘taking over from where backpage left off.’”<sup>4</sup>

10. After the shutdown of BackPage.com and CityXGuide.com, similar websites were created and proliferated, such as RubMaps.ch,

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<sup>2</sup>*See also* Sarah N. Lynch, Lisa Lambert, *Sex ads website Backpage shut down by U.S. authorities*, REUTERS, April 6, 2018, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-backpage-justice/sex-ads-website-backpage-shut-down-by-u-s-authorities-idUSKCN1HD2QP>.

<sup>3</sup> See “U.S. Attorney’s Office Shuts Down Website [CityXGuide.com] Promoting Prostitution and Sex Trafficking, Indicts Owner,” U.S. Department of Justice, June 19, 2020, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/pr/us-attorney-s-office-shuts-down-website-promoting-prostitution-and-sex-trafficking#:~:text=June%2019%2C%202020-,U.S.%20Attorney's%20Office%20Shuts%20Down%20Website,and%20Sex%20Trafficking%2C%20Indicts%20Owner&text=Shortly%20after%20the%20defendant's%20arrest,Security%20pursuant%20to%20a%20warrant.>

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

AdultSearch.com, Eccie.net, HarlotHub.com. These websites serve as platforms for IMBs to advertise their illicit services.<sup>5</sup>

11. Rubmaps.ch allows users to post reviews of massage parlors, including the type of sexual contact that has been allowed at the massage parlor. The website describes itself as a place “where fantasy meets reality,” and it requires an age of majority verification check before visitors can enter the full website

12. The Attorney General is seeking injunctive relief preventing the Defendants, Ella’s Asian Massage, Yuanin Bao, and Dinh Tung, from engaging in conduct prohibited by § 567.080.

### **Parties**

13. Eric S. Schmitt is the duly elected Attorney General of the State of Missouri and brings this action in his official capacity pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. Chapter 567.

14. Respondent Ella’s Asian Massage is registered to do business in the State of Missouri, and holds itself out as a massage therapy business with its principal place of business located at 3805 North Oak Traffickway, #C, Kansas City, Missouri 64116.

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<sup>5</sup> See Dan Whitcomb “Exclusive: Report gives glimpse into murky world of U.S. prostitution in post-Backpage era,” REUTERS, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-prostitution-internet-exclusive-idUSKCN1RN13E>.

15. Defendant Yuanuin Bao (“Owner”) is the owner of Ella’s Asian Massage and resides at 8701 North Holmes Street, in Clay County, Missouri.

16. Respondent Dinh Tung (“Landlord”) is the owner of the real property where Ella’s Asian Massage is located (the “Premises”).

17. Landlord is a Missouri citizen, and resides at 421 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street in Clay County, Missouri.

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

18. This Court has subject matter and personal jurisdiction over this action under Art. V, § 14 Mo. Const. and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 506.500.

19. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 508.010.2, in that venue lies in any county in which a Defendant resides or can be found.

20. Venue is proper because the Premises, which is the subject matter of this lawsuit, is located within Clay County.

### **Statutory Authority**

21. Mo. Rev. Stat. §567.080 declares the regular use of a room, building, or structure for prostitution activity to be a public nuisance, and allows the Attorney General to prosecute a suit to enjoin the nuisance. The Attorney General may include owners, lessees, officers, agents, or employees in the action.

### Allegations of Fact

22. For years, massage parlors located throughout the State of Missouri have been conducting public nuisances by “providing sexual contact for pay and/or unlawful prostitution activity” on business premises. Ella’s Asian Massage is one such illicit massage parlor.

23. Ella’s Asian Massage advertises its services on Rubmaps.ch, Adult Search and Bodyrubsmmap.com, and other websites frequently used to advertise prostitution services under the category of massage services.

24. The advertisements posted for Ella’s Asian Massage on these sites contained the following graphic and/or suggestive content:

- a. An advertisement was posted on RubMaps.ch for Ella’s Asian Massage under the category “erotic massage.” *See Exhibit 2.* The advertisement states it is open until 10:00 p.m. *Id.* The advertisement includes Defendant’s phone number and address, as well as a photo of the outside of the massage parlor. *Id.* The RubMaps advertisements includes two reviews of services. *Id.* RubMaps is a website that advertises itself as “where fantasy meets reality.” *Id.* On the RubMaps.com website, there is a banner ad which includes a photo of a woman in lingerie and forum posts by users asking about “Lot of 152 New Asian Porn DVDs for Sale” and

“Asking for 4-hands at a parlor with one of your regulars” *Id.*

Across the top, RubMaps suggests searches such as “Erotic massage Jefferson City, Asian massage Jefferson City.” *Id.*

- b. An advertisement for Ella’s Asian Massage was posted on AdultSearch.com, an escort website. *See Exhibit 3.* The advertisement includes Ella’s Massage’s address and phone number, as well as a photo of the exterior of the massage parlor. *Id.* This advertisement also includes a reference to the massage parlor being open until 10:00 p.m. *Id.* A Little Massage is advertised on AdultSearch.com under “Home > USA > MO > Gladstone > Erotic Massage Parlors.” *Id.* AdultSearch.com includes descriptors such as “Gladstone Shemale Escorts” and “Gay Escorts” as well as links to “Live Sex Cams.” *Id.* AdultSearch.com also includes a linked button for “M4M [male looking for male] Escorts,” “Erotic Massage,” and “Live Sex Cams.” *Id.*

- c. An advertisement for Ella’s Asian Massage was posted on BodyRubsMap.com, an escort website, on November 2, 2018. This advertisement includes Ella’s Asian Massage phone number and address. *See Exhibit 4.* This advertisement includes sexually-suggestive photos of women with no

reference to massage therapy skills. *Id.* The advertisement claims it offers “New Asian Girls.” and references below market pricing. *Id.*

25. Discussions posted on Facebook and a forum, ECCIE, indicate illicit activity is occurring at Ella’s Asian Massage:

- a. The Facebook page for Ella’s Asian Massage has a display name of “Alla’s Asian massage” (<https://www.facebook.com/asinamassage/>), and contains a review by “Patricia Allen” that states, “Front for prostitution. Will send unsolicited photos of prostitutes in bed to your phone if they get your number” (<https://www.facebook.com/patricia.combs.524381/posts/134633831141084>) (see **Exhibit 5**); and
- b. A user of the forum ECCIE, “kc86”, reviewed Ella’s Asian Massage on January 27, 2020 and stated that activities included “diy” (<https://www.eccie.net/showthread.php?p=1061933862>). This is indicative of possible masturbation while being aroused by a female who was originally engaged to provide a massage. This same patron, “kc86”, had reviewed Ella’s Asian Massage before on November 21, 2019 and indicated



they received a “HE” or “Happy Ending”

(<https://www.eccie.net/showthread.php?p=1061857158>) (see

**Exhibit 6**); and

- c. In 2018, a user of ECCIE, “craftyho” also stated that “diy” was available at Ella’s Asian Massage. They said, “Yeah I posted about it the other day, only diy”

(<https://www.eccie.net/showthread.php?p=1060865060>) (see

**Exhibit 7**); and

- d. In 2019 “ahaywoodm” posted in ECCIE, saying, “Ella's is self service,” again indicating that customers can masturbate while being aroused at the end of the massage

(<https://www.eccie.net/showthread.php?p=1061815728>) (see

**Exhibit 8**).

26. Since at least 2018 Ella’s Asian Massage has been conducting business from the Premises located at 3805 North Oak Traffickway, #C, Kansas City, Missouri 64116, pursuant to a lease agreement between Landlord and Tenant.

27. On September 4, 2020, Petitioner notified Landlord via letter regarding the highly suspicious nature of Ella’s Asian Massage advertising for services offered at the Premises. Petitioner’s, and informed Landlord that the Premises was being used for prostitution activity. Petitioner’s letter requested

Landlord to take action to abate the public nuisance created by such prostitution activity.

28. Landlord made no meaningful attempt to correspond with the AGO in response to the letter.

29. Landlord failed to take action to abate the public nuisance occurring at the Premises.

30. Upon information and belief, no female customers were observed to receive a massage by people working at neighboring businesses.

31. Upon information and belief, female employees were seen entering Ella's massage wearing clothing attire inappropriate for a masseuse, such as halter tops and short shorts.

32. The prostitution activity occurring at Ella's Asian Massage includes but is not limited to offering to engage in sexual conduct, including hand-to-genital contact by the masseuse on the customer.

33. Upon information and belief, Ella's Asian Massage utilizes young—and often Asian immigrant—females (“Victims”) to carry out sexual conduct on customers of the massage parlors in exchange for money or other items of value.

34. Ella's Asian Massage is registered to do business in Missouri, with its owner listed as defendant Yuanquin Bao. Owner is aware of the prostitution activities taking place at Ella's Asian Massage.

35. On information and belief, Owner knowingly profits from the prostitution activities.

36. Upon information and belief, since approximately January 2018 the Premises occupied by Ella's Asian Massage has been regularly used for prostitution activities.

37. Upon information and belief, Owner's massage license expired on January 30, 2021

38. Upon information and belief Owner emailed the Missouri Division of Professional Registration—Board of Therapeutic Massage on February 9, 2020, informing them that she had closed her business as of January 30, 2020.

39. As of March 1, 2021 Ella's Asian Massage was still open for business and operating without a license at 3805 North Oak Traffickway, #C, Kansas City, Missouri 64116.

**Count I – Operating a Public Nuisance**  
**(Against All Defendants)**

40. Petitioner incorporates all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 39 above.

41. Ella's Asian Massage, utilizes the Premises located at 3805 North Oak Traffickway, #C, Kansas City, Missouri 64116, in Cass County Missouri, as a massage parlor in which employees of Ella's Asian Massage carry out

sexual conduct on customers of Ella's Asian Massage in exchange for money or other items of value.

42. As such, the Premises, which are occupied by Ella's Asian Massage, is regularly used for prostitution activity prohibited under § 567.080, RSMo.

43. As such, the Premises occupied by Ella's Asian Massage constitutes a public nuisance under § 567.080.

44. Defendants Owner and Landlord aided and/or facilitated the public nuisance.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner State of Missouri ex rel. Attorney General Eric S. Schmitt respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of Petition enjoining Ella's Asian Massage from offering, aiding in, or promoting any prostitution activity anywhere in Clay County; Owner from engaging in, aiding in, or promoting prostitution activity; and Landlord from leasing the premises to any business which operates a public nuisance, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**Count II – Operating a Public Nuisance under §567.080.3  
(Against Owner)**

45. Petitioner incorporates all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above.

46. The Premises, which are occupied by Ella's Asian Massage, is a public nuisance because it is regularly used for prostitution activity prohibited by § 567.080, RSMo.

47. Owner is the owner, officer, agent, or employee of Ella's Asian Massage.

48. Owner aided and/or facilitated the public nuisance occurring on the Premises by knowingly allowing the premises to be regularly used for sexual contact for pay or unlawful purposes.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner State of Missouri ex rel. Attorney General Eric S. Schmitt respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment enjoining Owner from engaging in, aiding in, or promoting any prostitution activity anywhere within this Court's jurisdiction, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT III – Operating A Public Nuisance under §567.080.2 and §  
567.080.3**  
**(Against Landlord)**

49. Petitioner incorporates all of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 48 above.

50. The Premises, which are occupied by Ella's Asian Massage, are regularly used for prostitution activity.

51. Landlord owns the Premises, upon which Ella's Asian Massage is operating a public nuisance.

52. As of September, 2020 Landlord knew or had reason to believe that the Premises was being being used regularly for prostitution activity.

53. As such, the Premises is a public nuisance.

54. As of the date of this Petition the public nuisance continues to operate, despite correspondence from the AGO alerting Landlord to the unlawful situation.

55. Landord, as an owner, officer, agent, or employee of Ella's Asian Massage, aided and facilitated the public nuisance on the Premises in violation of § 567.080, RSMo.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner State of Missouri ex rel. Attorney General Eric S. Schmitt respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment enjoining Landlord from allowing the Premises to be use for prostitution activities, order that the Premises shall not be occupied for one year, and such other relief as this court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,  
**ERIC S. SCHMITT**  
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